

Gimme Shelter

News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County
Department of
Animal Care &
Control



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20 Homes in 12 Hours



Homeward Bound 2009 was a great success, with **20 animals** finding new homes!

13 cats, 6 dogs, and 1 bird were all adopted during the 12 hour adoption marathon. The rain didn't dampen the crowds who came out for the festivities.

There were a number of fun surprises for visitors, starting with the front yard of the Animal Shelter which was transformed into a football field with goalposts! The mobile

adoption vehicle was decorated and open, and a number of tailgating games were set up outside. Each visitor was treated to free popcorn and ice cream, as well as a souvenir water bottle.

A great time was had by all, and most importantly, many animals found new, loving homes. Kudos to all the Department staff who worked together to make Homeward Bound a success. Go team!

Halloween Pet Safety

Halloween is an exciting holiday for kids and grownups alike. But some of our Halloween fun can be scary or dangerous for our pets. Follow these simple tips to keep your companion animals safe & happy during the Halloween season.

- Keep pets inside. Pets, especially cats, can be vulnerable targets for pranksters on Halloween night.
- More chocolate is sold on Halloween than at any other time of year. Be sure to keep pets away from candy bowls to avoid accidental ingestion of chocolate, which is harmful to dogs and cats. Also beware of candy wrappers, which can be hazardous if swallowed.
- Beware of jack-o-lanterns lighted with candles - a wagging tail can

easily knock it over and cause a fire hazard. Or a curious kitty can get his paws or nose burned by the flame. Use a safety glowstick or electric light instead.

- Keep your pet safe in his own room during trick or treat time. A quick dog or cat can dart out a door that is opening and closing often. Also, the sight of strangely dressed people at the door can be very stressful for pets.
- Don't forget to ID your pet! Shelters are always busy around holidays with pets that have wandered away from home. An ID tag or microchip helps identify your pet so he can be returned home.
- Only dress up your pet if he is receptive to it. Don't cause undue stress on your furry friend! Use treat

training to help your pet get used to his costume, but if he doesn't seem happy take it off.

- Masks are never a good idea for pets. Masks can cut off peripheral vision, making a dog or cat nervous about its surroundings. Even the best behaved dog or cat can get agitated and may nip when he can't see what's coming from the side. Make sure your pet's costume fits properly, and does not constrict breathing or movement. Just as with a collar, make sure you can fit two fingers in between the costume and your pet's neck. Inspect the costume and remove any small or dangling pieces that could become a choking hazard.

Happy Halloween to all our furry friends!

Upcoming Mobile Adoption Events

Find directions and details at www.loudoun.gov/animals.

Saturday, October 31

6:00—8:00pm

Leesburg Halloween Parade

Downtown Leesburg

Saturday, November 14

11:00am—2:00pm

BarkFest

Franklin Park, Purcellville

Sunday, November 22

2:00—4:00pm

Dulles Town Center Mall

(next to Cheesecake Factory)

Holiday Pet Pantry

Loudoun County Animal Care & Control is once again hosting a Pet Pantry in partnership with the Community Holiday Coalition. The Pet Pantry provides donated pet food and supplies to families in need during the holiday season. The Pet Pantry will be located at the Community Holiday Coalition store during its December distribution dates.

The economic downturn has created an even greater need to provide assistance to those experiencing financial hardships, and many of these families include pets. The Pet Pantry allows families who are picking up food, clothes, and toys at the Holiday Coalition Store to also receive food and treats for their pets. Nearly 2,000

pets have received items since the Pet Pantry began in 2006.

The Pet Pantry is part of Loudoun County Animal Care & Control's award-winning CARE program, which works year-round to assist low income citizens with pet care needs such as medical assistance, low cost spay/neuter surgery, and pet food. Information will be made available about the CARE program for those that need additional assistance throughout the year.

The Pet Pantry is stocked solely through donations from citizens and businesses. Donations of unopened pet

food, treats, and new or gently used toys will be accepted at the Loudoun County Animal Shelter, as well as at all Holiday Coalition collection sites, through December 17.

For more information on the Community Holiday Coalition and the Pet Pantry, visit www.loudoun.gov/holidaycoalition.



Employee of the Month

Joanna Coulter is October's Employee of the Month! Joanna is being recognized for her excellent and unselfish work in Customer Service/Dispatch. Her efforts to assist the Department with special projects in addition to getting her own work done and her unselfishness in covering shifts for co-workers is highly commendable. This recognition also acknowledges her effort in the refiling of thousands of documents and records used and/or copied for use in the recent

"Pit Bull Policy" lawsuit. Her co-workers also recognize her extraordinary attitude in her willingness to change her work schedule in support of them. Her unselfishness, positive attitude, and great work ethic serve as examples to other staff along with her love and commitment to the animals which is greatly appreciated.

Thank you Joanna for all you do!



Congratulations Joanna!

What We're Up To...

Foster Families Needed

We're looking for a few good fosters! Foster families are crucial in helping us care for animals that need a little extra help to thrive, such as young or orphaned kittens, and animals in need of extra socialization. A foster care orientation will be held on Wednesday, November 4, at 6:30pm. For more information, call 703-777-0406 or email animals@loudoun.gov.

FOX 5

Be sure to tune in to the FOX 5 morning news on Monday, November 6 at 9:30am to see one of our wonderful adoptable animals! We'll be sharing the latest and greatest news and showing off one of our loveable pets. Don't miss it!

Veteran's Day

The Animal Shelter will be **closed** on Wednesday, November 11 in observance



of Veteran's Day. Emergency Animal Control services are available by calling 703-777-0445.